

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 410 - HB 544

March 26, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Grants immunity from civil liability for any injuries or harm to a non-livestock animal resulting from care rendered or the failure to render care by an individual who, in good faith and without compensation, renders or obtains medical care and treatment for a stray animal or one that has been abandoned, injured, or is in distress due to an emergency. Immunity will not be granted if the individual fails to take reasonable steps to locate the owner of the animal prior to rendering or obtaining the care or treatment.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

MINIMAL

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-12-142, a veterinarian and his or her staff have immunity from civil liability for services provided for free in an emergency situation, except in instances of gross malpractice.
- Expanding liability immunity to an individual who has rendered or obtained care for an animal will have no impact on the regulatory activities of the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml

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